







































































NOT ALL COMANCHE LIKE LIGHTNING, CLINT! SOM ALL INDIANS WILL BF









CLINT, DISGUISED AS A COMANCHE, WATCHES THE GRUESOME PROCEDURE...

MEAGHER! BEING BURNED ALIVE!...
GREY LIGHTNING MUST KNOW MEAGHER'S USEFULNESS IS OVER! I CAN'T LET A HUMAN BEING GO THROUGH SUCH TORTURE, EVEN IF HE IS MEAGHER!

















REMIND ME TO

RECOMMEND YOU





HA HA!-LET'S

BOTH LEAVE

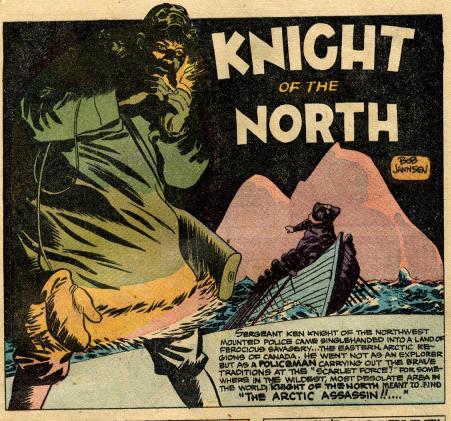


THE NEXT MORNING, AFTER THE
RANGERS GET THE GOOD NEWS...

CAN'T MAKE UP MY
MIND WHETHER TO
SHOOT YOU BLASTED
COMANCHES ON
SIGHT OR NOT.

RANGER BULLETS!
DON'T WE, PRONTO?





ONE MORNING, AS AN ARCTIC STORM RACES OVER NORTHERN BAFFIN ISLAND....

MR. JOHNSON...THESE HUNTER SAY STORM WORSE WHERE YOU WANT GO. THINK WE GO BACK!

WELL, WEVE GOT TO TURN
BACK... AN IDIOT CAN SEE
THAT! BETTER THAN
PEGGING OUT ON THE WAY...
GOT TOO MUCH TO LIVE FOR,
TOO MANY PEOPLE TO PAY



WHAT IF I CAN'T GET UP THERE TO TRA-PE' DON'T THESE ROTTEN ESKINGS! OWE ME ENOUGH FOR THE GIFTS I GAVE THEM YEARS AGO. !? WELL THIS YEAR THEY'RE PAYING IF IT'S THE LAST









































Nukuhdlah telle how he found two bodies destroyed by Johnson, the trader – and how his village wants punishment for the killer

































I KNOW YOU'RE HIS WIFE!

BUT YOUR HUSBAND



THERE LIES THE SLAYER NUKUHDLAH DOES ON MY SLED. AND HERE STANDS THE MAN WHO BRINGS JUSTICE EVERY-WHERE ... SER-GEANT KNIGHT.

ME HONOR AND I THANK HIM! BUT, I AND THE MOUNTED POLICE OF CANADA, ARE NOT YOUR LORDS, GOOD PEOPLE. WE ARE YOUR





POKEN CREEK WAS A CEMETERY FOR GHERIFFS! THERE WAS SOMETHING DEADLY FOR THE LAW IN ITS ATMOSPHERE UNTIL ALABAM SAUNTERED INTO TOWN, EACH PALM REGING ON A GUNBUTT! BUT WHO KNOWS HOW ALABAM'S BATTLE WOULD'VE TURNED OUT IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR A CERTAIN

SPLIT-SECOND STAND IN!





































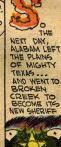






SOMEBODY KILLED MY

















JUST DON'T LET HIM GET YOU GORE ENOUGH TO DRAW!
GO QUIET!--THEN TONIGHT WE'LL BREAK INTA IT! JAIL
AN FREE YA!--LISTEN TO ME MIKE! PLEASE!



WHAT'S KEEPIN'
YOU, MIKE?
ARE YOU
SCAIRED?OR
MUGT I COME
UP AND GET
YOU?





PLEASE LISSEN, ALL RIGHT, I
MIKE I, I AIN'T
HEARD YRI
DON'T DRAW
ON 'IM!!
HERE, METTHER!
NOW GIT!

AUNT HILDA!
WHAT'RE YOU
DOING HERES
GTAY OUT OF
THIG!

IF HE'S SCAIRED TO DRAW ON YOU; ALABAM--I'LL MAKE HIM DRAW!





SO YOU'RE I'M GOING
TH' NEW TO LIKE
SHERIFF, HUN? LIVING A
DON'T LIKE LOT BETTER
LIVIN' MUCH, WITH YOU

AND THIS AND THIS! S-STAY DRAW YOUR GUN, YOU FILTHY MURDERER!! YAWA FROM DRAW YOUR GUN!! ME!

COWARD! LOOK WHAT A WOMAN DOES TO YOU! DRAW YOUR GUN!!



SHOW EVERYBODY! AFRAID OF HOBOD NOBODY, SEE2

ONE SLUG IN MY LEG! MANTEE YOU'VE SPOKEN

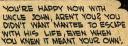


AUNT HILDA





YOU'RE HAPPY NOW WITH

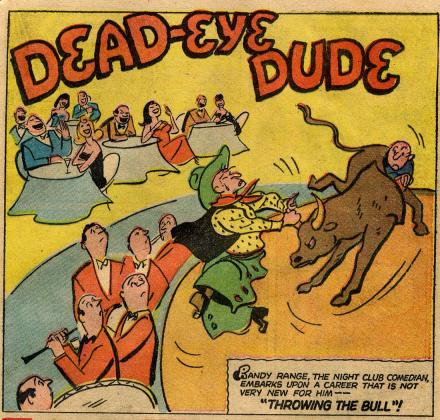








FOR A THRILLING ADVENTURE IN ALABAM'S CAREER AS SHERIFF OF BROKEN CREEK





























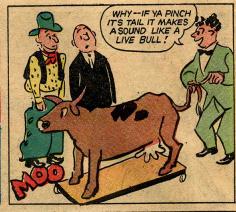






NOT ONLY WILL WE GET

















The wedding was over and the jubilant, giggling crowd escorted the bride and groom to their honeymoon hut. All in all, it had been a memorable occasion. Few Reserve Indians possessed the sweet, statuesque beauty of Falling Leaf, the young bride, or the goodly physique and handsome face of Mountain Bird, her happy husband. No couple was more soundly loved. Few young people had been more sought after as mates than these two. Mixed with the smiling faces of the celebrants were a score of sad, weak-grinning visages of those who had hoped, and lost. Falling Leaf could have had her choice of a hundred men. Any girl would have been thrilled to be Mountain Bird's squaw. But matters did not work out that way. The moment Falling Leaf and Mountain Bird had seen each other, they knew they had been born to meet and to love and to live together to the end of their lives. And now they were married and being convoyed to their home by the wedding guests.

On the threshold of their rude hut, Falling Leaf and Mountain Bird graciously accepted the wedding gifts offered them with fervent good wishes. Knives, lamps, pots, clothing, sewing supplies, a rifle, a chair... gifts both small and large, cheap and costly, were proffered and gratefully received. Last in the line was Sergeant

Ken Knight of the Canadian Northwest Mounted Police. He had known Mountain Bird for years. Many a time had they hunted together and spoken far into the night over the cheery camp fire about the astonishing beauty of one, Falling Leaf, the most lovely girl on the Reservation.

"Do you see this crippled left ear, Falling Leaf?" Ken said to the laughing girl. Ken indicated an organ reddened with the cold. "This ear," continued Ken, "is twisted with the hot utterances of love Mountain Bird has poured into it about a certain gorgeous girl named Falling Leaf! You may rest assured he didn't marry you for your money!"

"Marry ME?" laughed Falling Leaf. "Why, I thought all the time I

was marrying HIM!"

"Well, Mountain Bird, here's something I'd like you to have because you married EACH OTHER," rejoined Ken, growing serious. From his pocket he took out a pipe exquisitely worked in sterling silver. Seeing it, Mountain Bird blushed with pleasure. This was quite different from the practicality of the other wedding gifts. The pipe was an exact copy of Ken's own favorite, and Mountain Bird's eyes were moist as he shook hands with Ken.

There was a last hurrah and a last loud good-night from the crowd and

then the wedding couple were left to themselves.

However, no sooner was the area deserted, than a tall shadow sprang from the darkness of the forest fringing the clearing before Mountain Bird's hut. It slinked carefully to the front door and then rapped sharply, twice. Mountain Bird opened the door curiously. Falling Leaf was just behind him, peering puzzledly over her husband's shoulder.

"Long Pipe Stick!" she said. "Why do you see us so late? . . . After the others have gone?" Long Pipe Stick, a tall, ugly Indian, had been one of her most persistent admirers. When he heard that Mountain Bird would be the man of her choice, he had fallen into a rage and would have struck her had Falling Leaf's father not driven him off at the point of a gun. Now he stood in the entrance of her honeymoon home with a sly smile, holding forth a two gallon can of kerosene.

"I, too, have a gift for you," replied Long Pipe Stick. "May I place it inside? It is quite heavy."

Mountain Bird smiled and held open the door. "Of course!" he said.

But as Mountain Bird turned his back to shut the door, Long Pipe Stick whirled, something in his hand gleaming like silver. It was a knife. Mountain Bird never saw the weapon... he felt it. Deep into his back it went. Again and again, the slim blade cut into Mountain Bird's life, destroying it with every drop of the ruby blood that ran from his wounds. Mountain Bird took a few steps backwards, the blood in his mouth choking off any cry for help, and then he collapsed in a pool of the crimson liquid running from his body.

"NO! NO!" shrieked Falling Leaf, stumbling away from the bloody knife. Laughing silently, the murderer stumbled after her and seized her. The knife rose and fell mercilessly as he shrieked, "If I can't have you, nobody can!"

Twenty minutes later, Mountain Bird's hut was a blazing furnace. An hour later, a wailing crowd of Reservation Indians stood helplessly by, watching the house burn clear down to the sod. Sergeant Ken Knight stood with them, his jaw set vise-like, and the tears running down his cheeks. The pity of it! - That accident should so cremate not only their bodies, but their hopes and the hopes of those who had loved the young people! Nobody left the scene until smoke rose from the ruins. Then, in the cold, miserable dawn, Knight and the doctor from the Post began to poke among the ashes and hot metals. The crowd was kept at a distance by Corporal Mellony, who rode down from the nearest detachment to assist Knight.

The first thing Ken noticed was the twisted, scorched can of kerosene, lying where the door used to be. "That's why the thing went so completely," he commented. The doctor nodded assent. But he was busy with other matters. He was bending over two charred, unrecognizable forms. He poked about for a couple of seconds and then emitted a low, excited whistle. "Come here, Knight!" he muttered. Knight crouched beside him as the doctor

pointed to a few things.

"They were stabbed about a dozen times before the fire consumed them," whispered the doctor. Ken didn't answer. He saw something else in the burnt, crisp fist of the dead man. From between the bones he took a blackened object. "And I know who killed them, doctor!"

An hour later, Long Pipe Stick was under arrest, his thick wrists encased in handcuffs. His sullen mouth spoke no word, but his eyes did all the nec-

essary talking.

They were glittering coldly at a pipe Knight had taken from the dead fingers of Mountain Bird. It was the same pipe Knight had given his dead friend for a wedding present . . . a pipe with a LONG STEM. It was Mountain Bird's last message to Knight, indicating the murderer . . . a LONG PIPE STICK!



































SQUAW RIDGE, LIKE HUNDREDTOF WESTERN TOWNS
IN THE MIDDLE OF THE LAST CENTURY, WAS TOO
SMALL TO HAVE A PERMANENT CHURCH AND PASTOR

...SOME DAY YOU'LL HAVE A REAL CHURCH AND WE
WON'T HAVE TO HOLD SERVICES IN THE STABLE ...
THOUGH IF A STABLE WAS GOOD ENOUGH FOR OUR
SAVIOR, IT'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR US!









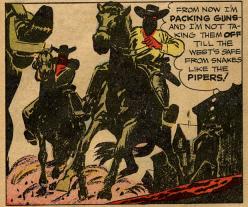






























































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